

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0002 with the following paragraph:

[0002] Present day arrangements of networks typically involve a host system, i.e., a server, having multiple target devices, i.e., storage systems, connected thereto by means of a fibre channel connection capable of transmitting and receiving SCSI requests during the normal operation of the host system, and with the various storage units implementing conventional input/output (I/O) operations. Such networks also typically include a workstation connected to the host system which allows specific requests and operations to be conducted from the workstation, with the host system and/or through the host system to the target devices, i.e., storage units.

Please replace paragraph 0004 with the following paragraph:

[0004] A problem with such a system is that when the workstation accesses the storage system through the host system's Host Bus Adapters (HBAs), the host system will stop performing other requests while the workstation is using its fibre pass-through. More specifically, ordinarily in the operation of such a network there are a number of file system read and write requests. When a management request is transmitted through the host system from the workstation, those read and write requests are interrupted, and while the workstation is interacting through the host system with the storage system, there are no read and write requests occurring because the host system is programmed to avoid effecting such read and write requests as a means of not interfering with the workstation interaction with the target devices.

Please replace paragraph 0010 with the following paragraph:

[0010] In a more specific aspect, the encoding step includes structuring the field of the SCSI request in a manner substantially the same as a SCSI fibre request from a host system to a target device. The encoding step further includes providing a data buffer containing data to allow the target device to read the data buffer. Alternatively, if no data buffer is included in the encoding step, the target device returns a data buffer generated by the target device to the computer system.

Please replace paragraph 0023 with the following paragraph:

[0023] Fig. 2 illustrates a typical system 11 in which the method and system described herein are implemented. A host system 13, is typically a server such as a SunTM server, available from Sun Microsystems, Inc., running an operating system such as LinuxTM, UnixTM, or Windows NTTM, available respectively from Red Hat Software, Inc., AT&T, Inc., and Microsoft Corporation. The host system 13 is connected, depending on throughput required, through various SCSI fibre cables 17, 19 and 21 to multiple target devices 15, which can be storage systems such as those commercially available from EMC Corporation under the trademark Clariion. Fibre Channel or other type cable connections are shown with different numbers of lines for purposes of illustrating various levels of robustness required of the cable for purposes of communication and input/output (I/O) requests occurring between the host system 13 and the target systems 15. The host system 13 also is connected through a communications line 25, which can take many forms, as will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill, to a workstation 23. The workstation 23 includes software therein for operating the host system and controlling the various I/O operations occurring between the host system 13 and the various target devices 15. In addition, the workstation is directly connected by means of a network 47 to support TCP/IP communication through a connector such as an EthernetTM connector, available from Xerox Corporation, directly at connections 45 to each of the individual target devices 15.